

**DOCKET NO.:** THOM-0040 (RA/P303328US)  
**Application No.:** 10/523,179  
**Preliminary Amendment - First Action Not Yet Received**

**PATENT**

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-60 were presented with the application as filed. Claims 5,-6, 8, 10, 15, 18, 30-31, 33, 35, 40, 45, 49, 52, 54, and 56-58 have been amended. The amendments are made to comport the claims with practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The amendments serve to remove multiple dependencies, and to clarify the claimed invention. The amendments are not narrowing and do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 53, 59, and 60 have been canceled, also to comport with practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The specification has also been amended to properly reference the related applications and priority. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. The preliminary amendment of the specification for such purpose does not necessitate a substitute specification and Applicants respectfully request that any requirement for same be waived.

All claims are now in condition for allowance and early and favorable examination and Notice to that end is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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